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SUBJECT CIA Accused of Involvement in Nicaragua

DAVID HARTMAN: This week, world attention has focused again on Central America, now on Nicaragua.

Many people believe that the new fighting there could develop into a full-scale civil war. Just this week there have been reports of major battles between guerrillas and the army of the Marxist government of Nicaragua. We just heard some reports a few minutes ago on our newscast.

The roots of the fighting go back almost half-a-century. For more than 40 years, Nicaragua was ruled by members of the Samozas family. Anastasio Somoza was the last dictator in the line. He was overthrown by rebels in 1979. At first, our government gave some support to the new Sandinistas regime, but that ended as the Sandinistas replaced the repressive Somoza government with what is considered here to be a harsh Communist government. Many of those now fighting the Sandinistas were soldiers under Somoza. The Sandinista government has charged that our CIA is deeply involved in the fighting. Our government has neither confirmed nor denied any American involvement.

Victor Hugo Tinoco is Nicaragua's Deputy Foreign Minister, and he is with us this morning here in New York.

Good morning, Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister. It's nice to have you with us this morning.

VICTOR HUGO TINOCO: Good morning.